

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15433 072105Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: TUC PREPARING GROUND FOR ANOTHER SPANISH BOYCOTT

REF: LONDON 15150

SUMMARY - IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO HAVE BEEN

AN INEFFECTIVE TWO-DAY BOYCOTT OF SPAIN CALLED BY THE

ITF (REFTEL) THE BRITISH TUC IS HELPING TO PREPARE THE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15433 072105Z

GROUNDWORK FOR ANOTHER ONE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ITS IN-

TERNATIONAL COMMITTEE. WHICH MET YESTERDAY (OCTOBER 6) DECIDED TO SOUND OTHER EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS ON THE IDEA AND TUC REPRESENTATIVES WILL RAISE THE MATTER AT THE NOVEMBER 14 MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION IN BRUSSELS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN THE EC, ICFTU CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, WHOSE CHAIRMAN IS JACK JONES, AGREED ON THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH ANTI-FRANCO BOYCOTTS. (A TUC OFFICIAL TOLD US HE THOUGHT THAT THE TUC VIEWED THE RECENT OVERALL BOYCOTT MEASURES BY EUROPEAN UNIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE UK, AS BEING INEFFECTIVE. HE SAID THAT SEVERAL TRADE UNION LEADERS THOUGHT THAT THE ADVANCE PREPARATION TIME WAS TOTALLY INSUFFICIENT.) IN ANY EVENT, THE TUC WILL CONSULT WITH OTHER EUROPEAN UNIONS TO DETERMINE FIRST IF A BOYCOTT EFFORT IS FEASIBLE.

2. ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO: THE TUC DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF JACK JONES, LEN MURRAY, LORD ALLEN, TERRY PARRY, CYRIL PLANT, AND ALLAN HARGREAVES. WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE OF THE ICFTU INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (ORIT), THE TUC WILL, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, "DO NOTHING TO ANTAGONIZE THE AFL-CIO", WHICH HAS A VERY STRONG INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF ORIT. THE TUC, HE ADDS, "WILL PLAY THIS ISSUE BY EAR." AS FOR A DUES INCREASE, THE TUC IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL TO RAISE DUES IMMEDIATELY BY ABOUT 29 PERCENT, WITH TWO ADDITIONAL 12 PERCENT TRANCHES LATER ON. THE TUC IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN INCREASE OF ONLY 30 PERCENT SPREAD OVER THREE YEARS. (IF THE TUC VIEW IS ACCEPTED, THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ICFTU RESOURCES IN VIEW OF THE INFLATIONARY COST SPIRAL.) THE TUC WILL, AS EXPECTED, SUPPORT OTTO KERSTEN FOR REELECTION AS GENERAL SECRETARY AND P. P. NARYANAN AS PRESIDENT.

3. THE EC: JACK JONES, LEN MURRAY AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, REPORTED ON THEIR FIRST MEETING OF THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15433 072105Z

CENTLY. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE BRUSSELS' PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT UNHAPPY WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE ALTHOUGH THE TUC WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COMMITTEE REFORMED, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN SIZE. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EC AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID, IS ONE OF "WATCHFUL WAITING". THE TUC SENT A RATHER HIGH POWERED DELEGATION TO FIRST MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE -- EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

-- BUT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL GET MINIMUM PARTICIPATION
OF ABOUT FOUR OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP AT EACH OF THE COM-
MITTEE SESSIONS.

4. OTHER DECISIONS: THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM THE COM-
BINED CISL-CGIL-UIL FEDERATION TO VISIT ITALY SOMETIME
NEXT YEAR. IT WILL ALSO SEEK A MEETING WITH FOREIGN SEC-
RETARY CALLAGHAN TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA.

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